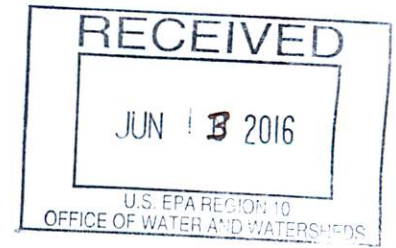




STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

PO Box 47775 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7775 • (360) 407-6300



June 7, 2016

Mr. Michael J. Lidgard
US EPA Region 10
NPDES Permits Unit
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101

Re: CWA § 401 Certification for Makah Wastewater Treatment Plant, NPDES Permit No.:
WA0023213

Mr. Lidgard:

We have reviewed the draft NPDES permit that EPA has prepared for issuance to the Makah Tribal Council, for discharges from the Makah Wastewater Treatment Plant to the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant (the facility) is located on the Makah Indian Reservation and is owned and operated by the Makah Tribe. The facility provides primary and secondary treatment, and disinfection. The design flow rate is 0.41 MGD; the average daily flow rate is 0.21 MGD. The facility serves approximately 2500 residents and several small businesses but does not accept any industrial wastes.

We understand from the current fact sheet and previous fact sheet that the treatment plant consists of an influent pump station and bar screen, four lagoons (operated in series), a chlorine contact chamber, effluent pump station, outfall and diffuser. The first lagoon is aerated and the second lagoon is partially aerated. The third and fourth lagoons are not aerated and are used for settling. There are six lift stations located outside the plant that services this system. The disinfected effluent is pumped from the fourth lagoon through the outfall and diffuser to the Strait of Juan de Fuca, approximately 3580 feet from shore at a depth of 45 feet.

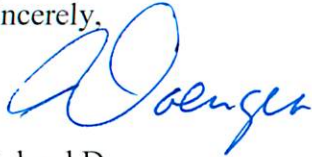
The permit contains technology-based limits for 5-Day Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD₅); Total Suspended Solids (TSS); Fecal Coliform Bacteria; pH; and Residual Chlorine. There are no water quality-based limits in the permit as there is no reasonable potential to violate water quality standards. The estimated dilution, as determined by Visual Plumes Modeling, at the edge of the acute mixing zone is 426:1; and 1676:1 at the edge of the chronic mixing zone.

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This letter is our certification that the discharge as permitted will comply with the Chapter 173-201A of the Washington Administrative Code (Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters). The standards include, by reference, the human health-based criteria in the National Toxics Rule. As part of this certification, we authorize the mixing zone discussed in the Fact Sheet.

If you have any questions regarding this certification, please call Gregory Zentner, Supervisor, Municipal Operations Unit at (360) 407-6368.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doenges", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Richard Doenges
Southwest Region Manager
Water Quality Program